

# "Operation RubyThroat: The Hummingbird Project" and GLOBE Training in Costa Rica

Trip #1: 26 November–3 December 2005

Trip #2: 11-18 February 2006



"Operation RubyThroat: The Hummingbird Project" is an award-winning cross-disciplinary international initiative in which students and adults collaborate to study behavior and distribution of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*. The project operates as an independent activity and also as a protocol within The GLOBE Program. Participants live in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Central America—all countries in which this bird regularly occurs.

Details at  
[www.rubythroat.org](http://www.rubythroat.org)  
[www.globe.gov](http://www.globe.gov)

(Photo above of a female hummer feeding on jocote flowers taken during Operation RubyThroat's 2004 Costa Rica expedition.)

## Background:

Costa Rica is more than just a tropical paradise. The northwest region (Guanacaste Province) is the winter home of a familiar Neotropical migrant, the **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. Join internationally known educator-naturalist **Bill Hilton Jr.** and learn about these fascinating birds while contributing to a cutting-edge research and monitoring project. Although K-12 teachers (and their students) are the main audience for "**Operation RubyThroat: The Hummingbird Project**," this particular trip is open to any adult interested in studying and reporting observations of hummingbirds.

## Highlights:

- Receive **training & certification** in GLOBE's hummingbird observation protocols
- Explore **varied ecosystems** including tropical dry & evergreen forests, volcanic mountain regions, ranches & fruit plantations, marine beaches, etc.
- Observe & photograph **wildlife** such as howler monkeys, iguanas, butterflies, amphibians, and up to 300 species of birds—plus lush **tropical foliage & flowers**
- Participate in a **night hike** for special insight into the hidden life of the forest
- Take a **full-day field trip** to Santa Rosa National Park & swim at a Pacific beach
- Ride **horseback** to volcano thermal springs near Rincon de la Vieja National Park
- Experience **Costa Rican culture** in area towns
- Enjoy **great food & fellowship** at a rustic but comfortable mountain lodge
- Network with and learn from **Costa Rican teachers** who join the group

## Expert Trip Leader:

**Bill Hilton Jr.** was twice named South Carolina Science Teacher of the Year and was honored as the state's Outstanding Biology Teacher. Bill continues his work as an educator through lectures, workshops, consulting, and field trips. He is executive director of **Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History** ([www.hiltonpond.org](http://www.hiltonpond.org)), principal investigator for "**Operation RubyThroat: The Hummingbird Project**" ([www.rubythroat.org](http://www.rubythroat.org)), and a widely published photographer and author on nature and education. He has investigated hummingbird behavior in the U.S. since 1984 and is the only researcher to conduct systematic banding studies of ruby-throats on their wintering grounds in Costa Rica.

## Land Price: \$1,199 per person

Rates based on double occupancy; round-trip air travel not included.

If fewer than 12 participants register, price is subject to increase.

See Web sites for trip details ([www.hiltonpond.org](http://www.hiltonpond.org) or [www.rubythroat.org](http://www.rubythroat.org)).

Contact **Debbie Sturdivant** at (866) 748-6146 or <[debbie@holbrooktravel.com](mailto:debbie@holbrooktravel.com)> for complete itinerary, final costs, and international flight information.

**HolbrookTravel** (888) 890-0632

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